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**NORTH KESTEVEN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR

1961

2. ~~Dr. Marten~~

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2. ~~Mr. Morley Parry~~ 419/R.S.

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dispose of)

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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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NORTH KESTIVEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Inspector for 1961.

Chairman: MR. W. E. YOUNG, J.P., Branston

Vice-Chairman: MR. G. W. HUTSON, J.P., North Hykeham, Lincoln.

Treasurer: NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK LIMITED, Lincoln.

Medical Officer of Health: DR. E. I. BLENKINSOP.

Clerk & Chief Financial Officer: MR. F. FOSTER

Assistant Clerk & Deputy Financial Officer: MR. T. L. HILL.

Legal Advisers: MESSRS. DANBY, EPTONS & GRIFFITH, Solicitors, Lincoln.

Rating & Valuation Officer and Housing Manager: MR. A. ELKINGTON, F.R.V.A.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector:
MR. J. FREEMAN, M.I.MUN.E., M.R.S.H.,
M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Surveyor: MR. J. B. SMART

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

MR. D. G. OWENS, M.A.P.H.I.
MR. R. I. BAIRSTOW, M.A.P.H.I.
MR. B. R. LOWE, M.A.P.H.I.
MR. J. H. BULMER, M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices:
31 Clasketgate, Lincoln.
Telephone No. 23221.

Surveyors—27395.

Pumping Station, Waneham
Bridge, Metherringham.
Telephone No. 230.

Garage and Store, Sleaford Road,
Metherringham.
Telephone No. 470.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman act as *ex-officio* members of all Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council (except the Rating and Valuation Committee)

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As your Medical Officer of Health, I beg to lay before you my report on the vital statistics, Health and Sanitary Conditions of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1961.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres)	100,783
Population 1961	34,270
1960	32,040
Dwelling houses (including houses with shops) ..	8,874
Commercial Properties	512
Licensed Premises	57
Entertainment and Recreational	48
Public Utility	41
Educational and Cultural	18
Industrial	33
Miscellaneous	240
 Total number of hereditaments	 9,823
 Rateable Value of District	 £348,627
Penny Rate Product (estm'd)	£1,400

Council Tenancies

Permanent houses and bungalows	..	..	..	1,806
Aluminium bungalows	..	..	..	60
Total	..	..	..	1,866

Considerable progress has been made with exchanges and transfers to make the best use of the housing accommodation available.

The following industries and occupations exist in the district:—Agriculture, crop drying, an egg packing station, brick making kilns, aircraft repair works, sewage works for Lincoln City, a light engineering factory, stone and sand and gravel quarries, road car depots and garages, wholesale distributors (SPD), a clothing factory, Jointine products, the Malleable Iron Works, food manufacture (N.A.A.F.I.) bakery at North Hykeham and pest control, Fisons at Metheringham.

VITAL STATISTICS

Extract from Vital Statistics for the year 1961.

Birth and Death Rates

As the age and sex distribution of the population in different areas materially affects both the Birth and Death rates of these areas, comparability factors allowing for this are issued by the Registrar General for each local Government Unit. These factors are used in calculating what are termed as nett rates and fairer comparisons are obtained if the latter are used when comparing rates with those of any other area (when these have been similarly adjusted) or with rates for the Country as a whole).

These factors for Births and Deaths in respect of North Kesteven Rural District are 1.05 and 0.83 respectively. The corresponding figures when multiplied by the Crude Rate (that is, for Births and Deaths as the case may be) will give the nett rate.

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births	286	324	610
Legitimate	281	311	592
Illegitimate	5	13	18
Crude live birth rate per 1,000 population	..	..	17.80
Nett live birth rate per 1,000 population	..	..	18.69
Rate for England and Wales	..	..	17.40
Illegitimate live births—Per cent of total births	..	..	2.95%
Still births	4	3	7
Legitimate	4	3	7
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	..	..	11.34
Rate for England and Wales	..	..	18.7
Total live and still births	..	..	617
Deaths	195	178	373
Crude death rate per 1,000 of estimated population	..	..	10.89
Nett death rate per 1,000 of estimated population	..	..	9.04
Rate for England and Wales	..	..	12.00

Infant Mortality

i.e. deaths of infants under the age of 1 year	..	5	4	9
Legitimate	.. .. .	4	4	8
Illegitimate	.. .. .	1	—	1
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	.. ..	..	14.75	
Rate for England and Wales	.. .. .	..	21.4	
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	.. ..	..	13.51	
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	.. ..	..	55.55	
Neonatal deaths (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)	.. .. .	3	3	6
Legitimate	.. .. .	3	3	6
Illegitimate	.. .. .	—	—	—
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	.. ..	..	9.80	
Early neonatal deaths (i.e. deaths of infants under one week)	.. .. .	2	1	3
Legitimate	.. .. .	2	1	3
Illegitimate	.. .. .	—	—	—
Perinatal Mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	.. ..	..	16.21	

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths	.. .. .	..	..	0
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	.. .. .	..	..	0.00

The birth rate at 18.69 per 1,000 of the population is slightly higher than that of England and Wales as a whole at 17.40 which is the highest since the year 1948. This is to be expected in an area where there are many young families and developing housing estates.

The death rate at 9.04 compares favourably with the figures for England and Wales at 12.00.

This year the infant mortality rate for England and Wales 21.4 was the lowest ever recorded in this country and for the seventh year in succession it has fallen. The rate for North Kesteven was 14.75 which compares very favourably with last years figure of 24.96.

However it must be remembered that with small population figures a small variation in the number of infant deaths can make a big difference to the infant mortality rate.

The natural increase in the population of the area, that is the excess of live births over deaths was 237. This figure in my opinion indicates that the area is one of growing prosperity and expansion.

CAUSES OF DEATH

				Male	Female	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..		2	—	2
2. Tuberculosis, other	..	..		—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	..	..		1	—	1
4. Diphtheria	..	..		—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	..	..		—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	..	..		1	—	1
7. Acute poliomyelities	..	..		—	—	—
8. Measles	..	..		—	—	—

9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	2	8
11.	Malignant neoplasm lung, bronchus ..	10	—	10
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	2	2	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	3	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	15	12	27
15.	Leukamia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
16.	Diabetes	2	—	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	20	27	47
18.	Coronary disease, angina	32	31	63
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	3	3	6
20.	Other heart disease	36	40	76
21.	Other circulatory disease	7	8	15
22.	Influenza	0	2	2
23.	Pneumonia	13	10	23
24.	Bronchitis	7	4	11
25.	Other disease of respiratory system ..	—	1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	3	1	4
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	2	—	2
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1	3
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—	3
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	2	2	4
32.	Other defined and illdefined diseases ..	15	25	40
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	3	1	4
34.	All other accidents	6	2	8
35.	Suicide	1	1	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war ..	—	—	—

Heart disease was as usual the principal cause of death accounting for 38.87% of the total deaths. Coronary artery disease and angina by themselves accounted for 16.9% of the total deaths. Vascular lesions of the central nervous system i.e. Strokes accounted for 12.6% of the total deaths. Cancer all forms accounted for 13.9% of the total deaths, almost one in five being due to cancer of the lung or bronchus. Pneumonia accounted for 6.16% of total deaths and respiratory tuberculosis for .54%. There were also two deaths from influenza representing .54%.

There were four deaths due to motor vehicle accidents which is half the figure of the previous year, an encouraging improvement, but there were eight deaths due to other accidents, four more than last year.

There were two deaths from Suicide, the figures being the same for the previous year. The only death from a notifiable infectious disease was one due to meningococcal infection. This must be considered as unfortunate as meningococcal infections usually respond well to antibiotics.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Nursing in the Home

Under the County Council Scheme, District Nurse/Midwives are stationed at villages throughout the area.

They are stationed at:—

BASSINGHAM	Dales, Nurse	Nurse's House, Eastgate, Bassingham Bassingham 248
BRANSTON	Chapman, Nurse	53 Hillside Estate, Branston Branston 285
BRANTBROUGHTON	Robinson, Nurse	8 Herons Close, Main Street, Claypole Fenton Claypole 235
HYKEHAM NORTH	Lewis, Sister	Mooring, Green Lane, North Hykeham North Hykeham 273
HYKEHAM NORTH	O'Boyle, Mrs	49 St Catherine's, Lincoln Lincoln 21829
LEADENHAM	Hopkinson, Nurse	Nurse's House, Station Road, Leadenham Fulbeck 266
POTTERHANWORTH	Miss M Phillips	Nurse's House, Nocton, Lincoln Metheringham 453
SKELLINGTHORPE	Daft, Nurse	Brentwood, Green Lane, North Hykeham North Hykeham 515
SWINDERBY	Frith, Nurse	Harmston Road, Aubourn, Lincoln Bassingham 320
WADDINGTON	Gregory, Nurse	'High Corner', Hill Top, Waddington Waddington 320
WASHINGBORO'	Neave, Nurse	Nurse's House, 10 Fen Road, Heighington Washingborough 281
WELLINGORE	Smith, Nurse	Nurse's House, Grantham Road, Navenby Navenby 302

Health Visitors

All district nurse/midwives act as health visitors and in addition there are two full time health visitors, one covering the North Hykeham and Waddington areas and the other covering the Skellingthorpe, Bracebridge Heath and Eagle areas.

The health visitor provides a medico social service to the family and in particular to mothers and infants, the aged, the tuberculosis patient and the problem family.

Immunization and Vaccination

Diphtheria, whooping cough and poliomyelitis immunization, also smallpox vaccination is provided free of charge by the general practitioners in the area. Poliomyelitis immunization has also been carried out at the Lindum Road School clinic. A large number of fourth injections against poliomyelitis were carried out by myself during the summer of 1961 in the schools at Branston, Heighington and Washingborough because it was inconvenient for the general practitioners concerned to do these.

Ambulance Service

Ambulances serving the area are based at Sleaford and also considerable use is made of the Lincoln City Ambulance Service. A new ambulance depot is contemplated at Waddington which will make the area more independant of the Lincoln City ambulance service.

School Clinic

This is held every Wednesday morning at 30 Lindum Road, Lincoln between the hours of 9-30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

Infant Welfare Clinics

These are scattered throughout the principal villages in the area. See enclosed list of Infant Welfare Clinics.

Mothercraft and Relaxation Classes

These were started at the Church Hall I.W.C. at North Hykeham during the summer of 1961, and there has been a moderately good attendance. In addition to a session of relaxation exercises, a talk relating to pregnancy, childbirth or mothercraft was given at each attendance.

Hospital Services

All the usual hospital services are provided by the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board at the Lincoln County and St. Georges Hospital, Lincoln. Also situated in the Council's area are St. John's Hospital which specializes in cases of mental illness and Harmston Hall Hospital at Harmston which specializes in cases of mental subnormality. There is also a hospital at Branston for the treatment of tuberculosis. Nocton Hall R.A.F. Hospital caters for R.A.F. personnel living in the area and also their families.

Public Health Laboratory Service.

Bacteriological investigations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service situated at Lincoln County Hospital under the supervision of Dr. Croll. The service includes the examinations of milk and water supplies as well as general bacteriological examinations for the general practitioners and the Public Health Departments. I should particularly like to thank Dr. Croll for his generous assistance and advice.

Venereal Disease Clinic

A special clinic for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases is held twice a week at the Lincoln County Hospital.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of cases of notifiable diseases was considerably higher than that of the previous year. This was due to an epidemic of measles occurring in a susceptible community which had developed since the last major epidemic. There was a reduction in the number of notified cases of pneumonia, whooping cough, erysipelas, dysentery and scarlet fever.

Although there were 23 deaths from pneumonia during 1961 in the area there were only four notifications. I feel that this discrepancy is partly due to the fact that pneumonia has now ceased to be looked upon as an infectious disease and also due to the fact that the deaths may have been caused by pneumonia occurring as a terminal phase in other illnesses, only acute primary pneumonia being notifiable.

Dysentery

There were only two notifications of dysentery during the year, a big improvement on the 108 cases of the previous year.

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

Centre	Doctor	Nurse	Secretary	Day When Held
BASSINGHAM The Comrades Hall	Dr. I. F. A. Blakeney	Mrs. E. Dales, Nurse's House, Eastgate, Bassingham 'Phone: Bassingham 248	Mrs. P. Holmes Bassingham Lincoln Bassingham 375	3rd Tuesday
BRACEBRIDGE HEATH The Village Hall	Dr. E. I. Blenkinsop	Miss M. A. Daniels, 28 Meynell Avenue, Lincoln 'Phone: Lincoln 24084	Mrs. A. A. Baumber 7 Canwick Avenue, Bracebridge Heath, Lincoln	2nd and 4th Thursday
BRANSTON The Methodist Chapel	Dr. I. F. A. Blakeney	Mrs. M. Chapman, Sleaford Road, Branston 'Phone: Branston 285	Mrs. H. E. Deverill 110 Lincoln Road, Branston	2nd Tuesday
EAGLE The Village Hall	Dr. E. I. Blenkinsop	Miss M. A. Daniels, 28 Meynell Avenue Lincoln 'Phone: Lincoln 24084	Mrs. I. Roe, Enfield Farm, Eagle	2nd Wednesday
HEIGHINGTON The Village Hall	Dr. E. I. Blenkinsop	Nurse Neave, Nurse's House, 10 Fen Road, Heighington 'Phone: Washingborough 281	Mrs. E. Pratt, Heighington Hall, Heighington, 'Phone- Washingborough 244	2nd Thursday
LEADENHAM The Village Hall	Dr. E. A. Whiteley	Mrs. A. Freeman 14 Sutton Lane, Beckingham 'Phone: Fenton Claypole 260	Mrs. Greasley, School House, Leadenham	4th Friday
LINCOLN BRANT ROAD Social Club	Dr. T. J. 'O'Sullivan	Mrs. M. Bindon 17 Willow Road, North Hykeham	Mrs. A. McLeod, 'Torridon', Brant Road, Lincoln	4th Monday
METHERINGHAM The Village Hall	Dr. I. F. A. Blakeney (1st Wednesday)	Nurse Turner, Jubilee House, Metheringham 'Phone: Metheringham 231	Mrs. D. Fincham, Jubilee House, Metheringham 'Phone: Metheringham 231	1st and 3rd Wednesday
NAVENBY The Wesleyan School	Dr. I. F. A. Blakeney	Mrs. A. Freeman, 14 Sutton Lane, Beckingham 'Phone: Fenton Claypole 260	Mrs. C. H. Powley, School House, Navenby 'Phone: Navenby 318	2nd Friday
NOCTON R.A.F. HOSPITAL R.A.F.	R.A.F. Medical Officer	Miss Phillips, Nurse's House, Wellhead Lane, Nocton, 'Phone: Metheringham 453		Wednesday fortnightly
NORTH HYKEHAM NEWARK ROAD The Memorial Hall	Dr. E. A. Whiteley (3rd Monday)	Mrs. M. Bindon 17 Willow Road, North Hykeham	Mrs. E. M. Anderson, 292 Newark Road, North Hykeham 'Phone: North Hykeham 280	1st and 3rd Mondays
NORTH HYKEHAM VILLAGE The Church Hall	Dr. E. I. Blenkinsop (4th Tuesday)	Mrs. M. Bindon, 17 Willow Road, North Hykeham	Miss E. Holt, 171 Lincoln Road, North Hykeham North Hykeham 402	2nd and 4th Tuesdays
POTTERHANWORTH The Village Hall	Dr. I. F. A. Blakeney	Miss M. Phillips, Nurse's House, Wellhead Lane, Nocton 'Phone: Metheringham 453	Mrs. T. H. N. Battle The Old Hall, Potterhanworth, 'Phone: Branston 338	3rd Friday
SKELLINGTHORPE The Womens' Institute	Dr. E. I. Blenkinsop	Miss M. A. Daniels, 28 Meynell Avenue, Lincoln 'Phone: Lincoln 24084	Mrs. A. L. Taylor, The Hollies, Skellingthorpe	2nd Monday
SWINDERBY Methodist Church School Room	Dr. E. I. Blenkinsop	Nurse Frith, The Bungalow, Harmston Road, Aubourn 'Phone: Bassingham 320	Mrs. M. W. Laird, Potter Hill Farm, Collingham, Newark 'Phone: Collingham 228	1st Thursday
WADDINGTON The Church Hall	Dr. E. I. Blenkinsop (1st Tuesday)	Mrs. W. Bindon, 17 Willow Road, North Hykeham	Mrs. M. A. Lowe, 'Pondcherri', Clifi Road, Waddington	1st and 3rd Tuesday
WASHINGBOROUGH The Village Hall	Dr. E. I. Blenkinsop	Nurse Neave, Nurse's House, 10 Fen Road, Heighington 'Phone: Washingborough 281	Mrs. M. J. Onyon, Suffolk House, Washingborough, 'Phone: Washingborough 234	3rd Thursday
WADDINGTON R.A.F.	R.A.F. Medical Officer	Miss Daniels, 28 Meynell Avenue, Lincoln 'Phone: Lincoln 24084		1st and 3rd Thursday

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

[illegible]

Diphtheria

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year but cases are often occurring in the country from time to time, and it is essential that a high level of immunisation be maintained in order to prevent the possibility of an outbreak.

Whooping Cough

Twenty nine cases of this illness were notified during 1961. This figure is under half that of the previous year and I would venture to prophesy that the more widespread use of triple antigen will further reduce the number of cases in future years.

Poliomyelitis

There were no cases of poliomyelitis notified in 1961 compared with one case in the previous year.

Now that there are plentiful supplies of oral poliomyelitis vaccine there is no excuse whatever why all children should not obtain protection against poliomyelitis. It is only by large numbers of persons being vaccinated that an immune community is built up, reducing the chances of an outbreak occurring.

Food Poisoning

No cases of this condition were notified during the year.

Tuberculosis

There were ten new cases of tuberculosis notified during the year. Of these ten cases eight were pulmonary tuberculosis and two deaths were attributable to this cause during the year. Enormous developments have taken place in the treatment and prevention of tuberculosis in recent years but if there is any relaxation in the battle against this disease final eradication will be further postponed.

The maintainance of the B.C.G. vaccination programme is vitally important. The job of tracing contacts of cases and persuading them to be X-rayed is done by the Health visitors or District Nurses. Often quite a lot of time is spent before these tasks are finally accomplished. It is an unfortunate fact that tuberculosis is still considered with such dread and by some as a social stigma. But for this mental attitude on the part of some of the general public, the process of tuberculosis eradication could be much faster.

With regard to cases of infectious disease in general it should be noted that a considerable number of these are admitted to hospital in Lincoln before a diagnosis is made. If the diagnosis is made in a Lincoln Hospital, the notification return is included in those of Lincoln City and not in that of the North Kesteven R.D.C. The hospital concerned however makes the practice of informing myself of the diagnosis in order that preventive measures can be carried out in the home and locality from which the case originated.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Inspection of Meat.

In the area there are 6 licenced slaughterhouses.

The following is a tabular statement for the post-mortem inspection of animals:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	586	299	20	976	2139	30
Number inspected	586	299	20	976	2139	30
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	6	17	2	5	11	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	17	65	Nil	1	51	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	3.8%	27.4%	10%	0.6%	2.9%	23%
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned	10	24	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	107	103	9	Nil	54	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	19.9%	42.4%	45%	Nil	2.5%	Nil
Cysticercosis:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Weight of Meat Condemned.

	Carcase Meat		
	tons	cwts.	lbs.
Bovine	9	3	64
Sheep	—	2	51
Pigs	1	2	20
Horses	—	7	16
Total:	10	15	39

	Offal		
	tons	cwts.	lbs.
	4	3	37
	—	1	41
	—	5	14
	—	1	63
	4	11	43

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food continued sending reactor cattle into the slaughterhouse of Messrs. Hughes & Son (Skellingthorpe) Ltd., and during the year 357 reactors were inspected, making a total of 1,348 since the inception of the scheme in March 1960. The high percentage of cattle affected with tuberculosis is again through the number of reactors received.

Food Premises.

(i) The following is a tabular statement of the type of food premises in the area.

Restaurants and Cafes	Butchers	Grocers & Confectioners	Fish & Chip Fryers	Bake-houses	Fruiterers	Licensed Premises
15	22	103	14	9	2	62

(ii) Food Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Sale of Ice-Cream	Manufacture of Meat Products	Fish and Chip Fryers
111	24	14

105 inspections of the above premises were made during the year.

(iii) Disposal of Condemned Meat.

This is taken to a Knackers Yard in the district for processing into pet food and fertilisers.

(iv) Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947-52

There are no manufacturers of ice-cream in the district and all ice-cream is sold retail in wrappers or in carton containers.

Food Hygiene Regulations 1955-56

Again much of the Inspectors time had to be devoted to the inspection of Reactor Cattle but more progress than last year was made in regard to the inspection of food premises.

People who are prepared to challenge the seller of doubtful food or the proprietor of unhygienic food premises and report the matter to the Public Health Department, are without doubt a valuable aid to the Public Health Inspector in his difficult task of maintaining a satisfactory standard of hygiene in food premises.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Visits to Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	436
Drains Tested	..	..	..	..	..	638
Housing Inspection	..	..	..	..	..	979
Knackers Yard	..	..	..	..	..	21
Refuse Tips	..	..	..	..	..	140
Inspections on Complaint	..	..	..	..	..	114
Other Inspections under Public Health Act	..	..				284
Inspections under Food and Drugs Act	..	..	..			105
Milk Samples	..	..	..	..	..	1
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	10
Water Samples taken	..	..	..	..	..	149
Caravan Acts	..	..	..	..	..	156
Sewer Dykes	..	..	..	..	..	47
Chlorinators	..	..	..	..	..	51
Visits <i>re</i> Water Supplies..	..	..	..	..	..	233
Visits to Council Houses <i>re</i> Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	2822
Sewage Works	..	..	..	..	..	144
Buildings in course of Erection	..	..	..	..	..	1170
Scavenging	..	..	..	..	..	32
Visits to Housing Sites	..	..	..	..	..	732
Factories Act	..	..	..	..	..	33
Petroleum	..	..	..	..	..	117
Sewers	..	..	..	..	..	153
House Drain Connections	..	..	..	..	..	136
Garage and Store	..	..	..	..	..	63
Pumping Station	..	..	..	..	..	74
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	292
Inspections under Rent Act	..	..	..	..	..	—
Clean Air Act	..	..	..	..	..	2
Litter Act	..	..	..	..	..	3

HOUSING

In carrying out their duties under the Housing Acts in respect of unfit houses, investigating applications for Improvement Grants and supervising the subsequent work, your Public Health Inspectors made 979 visits. The following gives brief details of the outcome of this work.

Slum Clearance

During 1961 24 houses were reported to the Council under Section 16, Housing Act, 1957, as being unfit for human habitation and incapable of being rendered fit at reasonable expense.

Of the 24 houses, Demolition Orders were made in 10 cases, Closing Orders in 3 cases, Undertakings accepted in 2 cases and 9 remaining to be finally dealt with at the end of the year.

6 Demolition Orders were made and 3 Undertakings accepted by the Council in respect of houses first dealt with before 1961. During the year 26 houses were demolished and 12 made fit.

4 houses were reported as unfit pursuant to Section 42, Housing Act, 1957.

Since 1956 a total of 96 dwellings have been included in Clearance Areas under Section 42 and of these 18 have been demolished (10 purchased by the Council and demolished and 8 demolished by owners under Clearance Orders). 12 have been purchased by the Council but not yet demolished, 8 have been included in Confirmed Closing Orders but not yet demolished, and 58 remain to be dealt with by Clearance Order or otherwise.

Rent Act, 1957

During the year one application for a certificate of Disrepair was received and one undertaking from the Landlord received. No Certificates were granted.

Improvement Grants

During the year the Council approved 37 applications for Discretionary Grants, the amount of grants involved being £12,725. The total number of Discretionary Grants approved since the commencement of the Act is 253.

The number of Standard Grants approved during the year was 32 making a total of 81 since commencement of the Act.

Conversion of Closets under Section 47, Public Health Act, 1936.

During the year the Council approved 37 applications for converting closets (other than water closets) to water closets, making a total of 122 since the commencement of the scheme.

New Housing

39 new Council Houses were completed during the year bringing the total built since the end of the war to 1,245.

During the year 357 dwellings were completed by private builders making a total of 1,806 since the war. At the end of the year 185 private dwellings were under construction.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Water Supply

All parishes have a piped water supply. Until 30th September, 1961 Bracebridge Heath, Canwick, North Hykeham, South Hykeham, Skellingthorpe and part of Waddington were supplied by Lincoln Corporation. Potterhanworth had its own source of supply and the remaining parishes were supplied from the Council's source of supply at Dunston. Details of the supply are given below.

	<i>Direct Services</i>		<i>Pillar Fountains</i>	
	<i>No. of Properties served</i>	<i>Popl'n served</i>	<i>No. of Properties served</i>	<i>Popl'n served</i>
Aubourn, Haddington and South				
Hykeham	179	608	14	45
Bassingham	185	649	—	—
Beckingham	65	221	19	65
Boothby Graffoe	46	156	—	—
Bracebridge Heath	594	3292	—	—
Branston and Mere	520	1795	43	138
Brant Broughton and Stragglethorpe	163	553	14	60
Canwick	109	372	—	—
Carlton-le-Moorland	65	211	6	22
Coleby	120	429	5	21
Doddington and Whisby	84	292	—	—
Dunston	114	353	15	54
Eagle and Swinethorpe	119	468	—	—
Harmston	69	234	16	44
Heighington	324	1292	15	48
Leadenham	158	534	—	—
Metheringham	332	1128	110	376
Navenby (includes Skinnand)	170	590	31	105
Nocton	100	776	—	—
North Hykeham	1541	5043	—	—
North Scarle	76	243	—	—
Norton Disney	45	159	6	22
Potterhanworth	105	361	17	54
Skellingthorpe	645	2370	—	—
Stapleford	26	90	11	38
Swinderby	104	1883	—	—
Thorpe-on-the-Hill (includes Morton)	126	793	—	—
Thurlby	22	81	5	20
Waddington	580	3878	56	177
Washingborough	323	979	29	87
Welbourn	190	644	17	51
Wellingore	148	504	8	26

In accordance with the national government policy with regard to regrouping of water undertaking the Council relinquished their responsibilities for water supply to the Lincoln and District Water Board with effect from 1st October, 1961.

Prior to that date and during the year the village of Potterhanworth, which had its own source of supply and distribution system, was connected to the Council's regional system of water supply by a system of mains which also had the effect of improving the supply position in the areas of Branston Moor and Branston Fen.

The linking up of Potterhanworth came none too soon because the old pumping equipment which had been in operation for very many years was obsolete and its maintenance was becoming a serious problem. In fact during the year breakdowns, on the pump necessitated the enlistment of aid from the Kesteven Fire Brigade on two occasions to use a trailer pump and fire hose to pump into the local water tower. This temporary expedient, worked sufficiently well so that the population supplied suffered no inconvenience.

Close attention was paid to the chlorination of the pumping equipment before and during use so that all the samples of water taken during the emergency period were of a satisfactory standard.

No steps had been taken to renew the old plant as for some years the Council had intended to sink a new borehole at Potterhanworth and this in fact materialised during 1961. The work was actually commenced by the Council before the hand over to the Water Board but was completed by the Board. At the outset it was hoped to develop a bore with an output of 250,000 gallons per day but in fact this amount was far exceeded, and the bore has considerably improved the water supply position in the area.

Instances of lack of water pressure in the vicinity of Doddington and Eagle at peak periods were overcome by providing an interconnection with mains of the Newark Rural District Council at Harby and a considerable improvement achieved. The sources of supply for water supplied in this district are at Elksley, Nottinghamshire, Dunston and Potterhanworth.

The bacteriological quality of the water from the two latter sources has remained satisfactory throughout the year and it is chlorinated at source. The water is not plumbo-solvent in nature.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Mark					Waneham Bridge	Potterhanworth
Appearance	..	..	..	..	Clear and bright	Clear and bright
Colour	..	..	..	..	Colourless	Colourless
Taste	..	..	..	..	normal	normal
Odour	..	..	..	..	None	None

GENERAL CHEMICAL EXAMINATION

					Parts per Million	
Reaction, pH Value	..	..	..	..	7.3	7.2
Ammoniacal Nitrogen as N	..	..	..	..	0.002	0.002
Albuminoid Nitrogen as N	..	..	..	..	0.012	0.024
Nitrous Nitrogen as N	..	..	..	..	none	none

					Parts per Million	
Nitric Nitrogen as N	..	..	..	..	8.75	11.25
Poisonous Metals (Lead etc.)	..	..	..	..	none	none
Hardness (calculated from Mineral Analysis						
as CaCO ₃)	..	..	..	..	425.5	462.4
Temporary	..	..	..	..	214.1	217.2
Permanent	..	..	..	..	211.4	245.2
Permanganate Figure (4 hours at 80°F as 0	..	..	..	..	0.41	0.37
Total Solids dried at 180°C	..	..	..	..	570.0	620.0
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	..	211.4	245.2

MINERAL ANALYSIS

Silica as SiO ₂	..	..	..	..	4.6	3.6
Alumina and Iron Oxide	..	..	..	..	1.4	1.0
Calcium as Ca	..	..	..	..	166.4	179.2
Magnesium as Mg	..	..	..	..	2.4	3.6
Sodium as Na	..	..	..	..	18.81	23.81
Carbonates as CO ₃	..	..	..	..	128.4	12.6
Chlorides as Cl	..	..	..	..	46.0	59.0
Nitrates as NO ₃	..	..	..	..	38.73	49.80
Sulphates as SO ₄	..	..	..	..	149.8	166.3
Iron as Fe	..	..	..	..	0.10	0.20
Fluorine as F (by the distillation method)	..	..	..	..	0.07	0.07

Probable composition of Mineral constituents:—

Silica	..	..	..	..	4.60	3.60
Alumina and Iron Oxide	..	..	..	..	1.40	1.00
Calcium Carbonate	..	..	..	..	214.14	217.24
Calcium Sulphate	..	..	..	..	212.29	235.67
Calcium Chloride	..	..	..	..	50.33	61.46
Magnesium Chloride	..	..	..	..	9.40	14.10
Sodium Chloride	..	..	..	..	11.28	13.57
Sodium Nitrate	..	..	..	..	53.10	68.27
					<hr/> 556.54	<hr/> 614.91

Calculated Hardness

Temporary	..	..	..	..	..	214.1	217.2
Permanent	..	..	..	..	..	211.4	245.2
Total	..	..	..	..	..	425.5	462.4

Details of the number of samples of water taken during the year are given below:—

<i>Nature of Sample</i>					<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	Total
Chemical	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
Bacteriological	..	..	..	..	122	9	131

A problem related to water supply with which the Council were faced during the year was a proposal to establish a pea processing plant at the Flax Factory, Metherringham Heath.

If the plant had been established, there would have been approximately 75,000 gallons of effluent to have been disposed of each day for the greater part of the year. The B.O.D. of this effluent was estimated to be 2,400 parts per million and to contain total solids to the extent of 5,000 part per million, in other words an effluent four to five times as strong as crude domestic sewage.

The firm considered that the only economic method of disposing of such an effluent would be by spraying it over a large area of land growing a crop such as lucerne. This method appears to have been used with success abroad but there seems to be little information as to its efficiency in this country. The firm's consultant chemist considered that if the effluent was sprayed on the land at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ " per acre per week the effluent would be taken up by the growing crop and that little, if any, would penetrate to the sub-soil.

However it appeared to the Council's officers, and those of the Kesteven County Council and the Lincoln and District Water Board, with whom the question was discussed, that there was no guarantee that none of the effluent would penetrate to the sub-soil. This was a particularly serious aspect of the problem having regard to the fact that the spraying would have been done within $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the Dunston boreholes, within their catchment area and in an area where the sub-soil is badly fissured limestone which in some place has only a soil covering 1 foot in thickness. If seepage of the effluent to the limestone had occurred in quantity it was felt that, having regard to the nature of the ground, there was a distinct possibility that pollution of the boreholes could have taken place and the quality of the water been effected.

The matter was referred to the Ministry of Health for guidance, but they in turn referred it to the Ministry of Housing & Local Government with the comment that the matter came within their jurisdiction. Since the firm had submitted an application for planning approval to the project the Ministry of Housing and Local Government declined to give an opinion as the matter might have become the subject of a planning appeal upon which they would have to adjudicate.

However, other expert opinion which was obtained suggested that having regard to local circumstances and the quantity of effluent involved there was a risk to the water supply.

The Council carefully considered the problem and, whilst they were loth to discourage the establishment of a business which would have been of considerable benefit to the locality, they were not prepared to approve it whilst there was any doubt as to the safety of the water supply. The Kesteven County Council considered the planning application but made no decision in the matter. In accordance with planning legislation the application was, therefore, deemed to be disapproved. No appeal was lodged.

Refuse Disposal

A weekly collection of refuse was carried out throughout the whole of the district, the work being executed by direct labour.

The disposal of refuse was by tipping at Metherringham, Wellingore and Bracebridge Low Fields. A "Brayloader" tractor with shovel attachment was acquired in April, 1961 and was in daily use at the tip at Bracebridge Low Fields. The acquisition of this piece of equipment coupled with ample quantities of covering material at the tip have made it possible to carry out tipping at Bracebridge Low Fields on a strictly controlled basis. Refuse is tipped, in the main, in 6 ft. layers and is covered down generally at the end of the day and certainly within 24 hours. The effect of this has been to considerably reduce risk of fire, risk of insect and rodent infestation, risk of smell nuisance and to always maintain the tip in a tidy condition.

With the development of the tip at Bracebridge Low Fields, tipping at Metherringham and Wellingore has been reduced considerably.

Sewage Disposal

At the end of 1961 the following villages were sewered:— Boothby Graffoe, Bracebridge Heath, Branston, Brant Broughton, Heighington, Metherringham, North Hykeham, Washingborough, Waddington and Welbourn.

No further schemes were put in hand during the year but the Ministry of Housing & Local Government held a local inquiry into proposals for Navenby and Wellingore and approved them in principle.

The policy of connecting houses with effectual drainage to cesspools to new public sewers was continued and grant aid given for the conversion into water closets of other types.

Pests Act, 1949

The Council employ two full-time Rodent Operators. The District is divided into two areas, each Operator being responsible for a particular area.

The Report for the Year Ending 31st December, 1961, which is sent

to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, is reproduced to show the results of their work.

	Type of Property				
	Non-Agricultural				Agri-cultural
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses including Council	(3) All other including Business Premises	(4) Total of Cols (1) (2) & (3)	
Number of Properties in Local Authority's District	18	7327	878	8223	1284
Number of Properties In- spected as a result of:					
(a) Notification	18	1024	60	1102	57
(b) Survey under the Act	—	4565	239	4804	994
(c) Otherwise	—	—	—	—	—
Total Inspection carried out including Re-Inspections	44	5589	299	5932	1051
Number of Properties which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats { Major	53	111	34	198	78
{ Minor	24	1710	39	1773	122
(b) Mice { Major	—	7	4	11	4
{ Minor	—	9	1	10	—
Number of Infested Pro- perties treated by the Local Authority	77	1837	78	1992	106
Total treatments carried out including Re-Treatments	77	1837	78	1992	106
Number of "BLOCK" Con- trol Schemes carried out	1	70	—	71	—

Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Sanitary accommodation:—

(a) Insufficient, Nil. (b) Unsuitable or defective 3. All were remedied.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	3	—	—
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	70	20	—
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	18	13	—
TOTAL	91	33	

An Offence Under the Litter Act

During the early part of 1961 members of the Council will probably remember the incident of the gentleman found depositing the contents of pail closets on the grass verge of a lane in North Hykeham. The person in question had been given a contract to empty pail closets from a caravan site in Brant Road, Waddington and to dispose of the contents.

A complaint was received by the Chief Public Health Inspector that this material was being deposited on a grass verge in North Hykeham. The police were informed and they kept watch for the culprit, who was caught red handed.

He was I believe fined £5 under the Litter Act. Some Litter!

Health Education

The Council subscribe to the Central Council for Health Education and received their posters and leaflets. A great deal of time and effort is spent by the staff of the Health Department of this council in persuading members of the public to increase their standard of hygiene. What may appear on a report as a single visit or inspection may have in fact have entailed many hours of explanation and persuasion.

During the latter part of the year I myself in conjunction with the County Public Health Inspector, Mr. Lofthouse, gave a film show and lecture to the kitchen staff at St. John's Hospital, Bracebridge Heath on the subject of preventing food infections. This was following by many questions and a discussion.

National Assistance Act, 1947

No action was taken under Section 47 of the above Act during 1961. This section provides for the compulsory removal to hospital or an institution of old persons who are suffering from grave chronic disease, or who are generally in an unhygienic or verminous condition and are not properly cared for. Any action under this legislation must I feel always be looked upon as absolutely the last resort and should only be invoked when all other measures have failed, as it deprived the right of freedom to the individual.

In conclusion I should like to thank the Chairman and members of the Council, the other Officials, and in particular the staff of the Public Health Department for their invaluable assistance during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

E. I. BLENKINSOP,

Medical Officer of Health.





